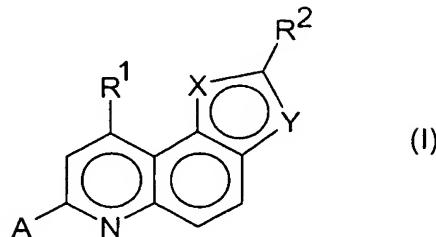


5 **What is Claimed is:**

1. A compound of formula (I),



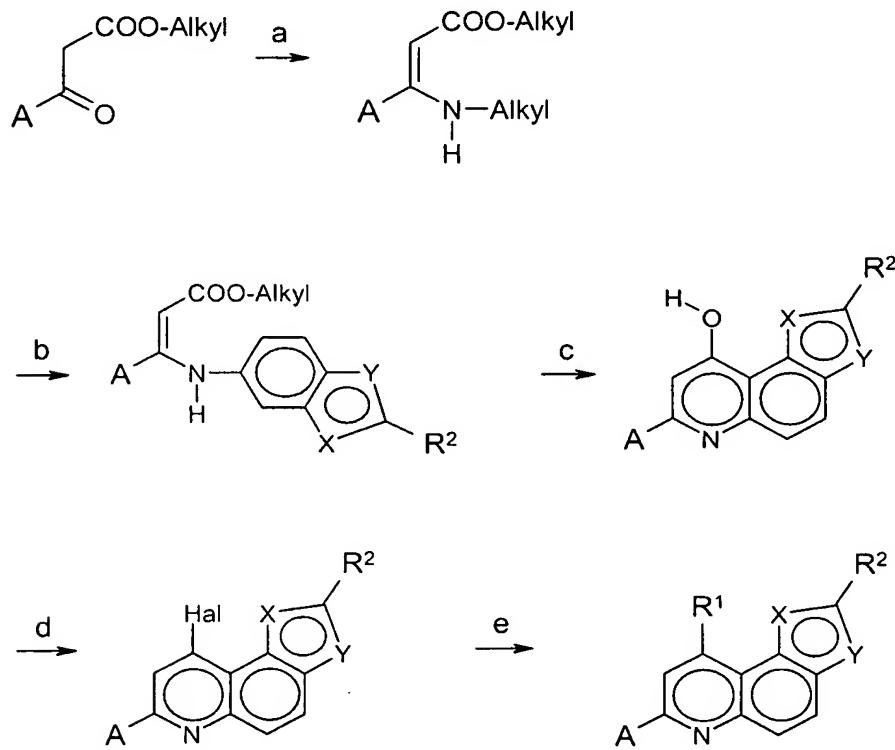
wherein the elements X, Y, A, R<sup>1</sup>, R<sup>2</sup> and R<sup>3</sup> have the following meanings:

- 10    X denotes a nitrogen atom (N), oxygen atom (O) or sulphur atom (S);
- Y denotes a nitrogen atom, if X denotes an oxygen atom or sulphur atom;
- Y denotes a nitrogen atom with a bound group R<sup>3</sup> or a sulphur atom or an oxygen atom, if X denotes a nitrogen atom;
- A denotes an unsubstituted or substituted mono-, di- or tricyclic aromatic group,
- 15    which contains either no or 1-3 heteroatoms selected from nitrogen, oxygen and sulphur, at least one of the heteroatoms being a nitrogen atom;
- R<sup>1</sup> denotes hydroxy, fluorine, chlorine or bromine, amino, (C<sub>1-6</sub>)alkylamino, di(C<sub>1-6</sub>)alkylamino, (C<sub>3-7</sub>)cycloalkylamino, di(C<sub>3-7</sub>)cycloalkylamino, (C<sub>1-6</sub>)alkyl-(C<sub>3-7</sub>)cycloalkylamino, acetidin-1-yl, pyrrolidin-1-yl, pyrrolin-1-yl, imidazolidin-1-yl, imidazolin-1-yl, pyrazolidin-1-yl, pyrazolin-1-yl, piperidin-1-yl, piperazin-1-yl, morpholin-4-yl, thiomorpholin-4-yl, thiomorpholin-S-oxid-4-yl, thiomorpholin-S-dioxid-4-yl, or hexamethyleneimino; and
- 20    R<sup>2</sup> and R<sup>3</sup> independently of one another denote hydrogen, (C<sub>1-8</sub>)alkyl or (C<sub>3-7</sub>)cycloalkyl,
- 25    or a salt thereof.
  
- 2. The compound of claim 1, wherein the group A is phenyl, pyridyl, pyrimidyl, pyridazinyl, pyrazinyl, imidazolyl, pyrazolyl, oxazolyl, isoxazolyl, furazanyl, thiazolyl, isothiazolyl or pyrrolyl, unsubstituted or substituted by the groups R<sup>4</sup>, R<sup>5</sup> and R<sup>6</sup>, where R<sup>4</sup>, R<sup>5</sup> and R<sup>6</sup> independently of one another denote

- 5       hydrogen, (C<sub>1-8</sub>)alkyl, monofluoro(C<sub>1-5</sub>)alkyl, difluoro(C<sub>1-5</sub>)alkyl,  
trifluoro(C<sub>1-5</sub>)alkyl, (C<sub>3-7</sub>)cycloalkyl, hydroxy, (C<sub>1-6</sub>)alkoxy, fluoromethoxy,  
difluoromethoxy, trifluoromethoxy, (C<sub>3-6</sub>)cycloalkyloxy, fluorine, chlorine,  
bromine, carboxy, (C<sub>1-6</sub>)alkoxycarbonyl, amino, (C<sub>1-6</sub>)alkylamino,  
di(C<sub>1-6</sub>)alkylamino, acetidin-1-yl, pyrrolidin-1-yl, piperidin-1-yl,  
10      (C<sub>1-4</sub>)acylamino, (C<sub>1-6</sub>)alkyl-(C<sub>1-4</sub>)acylamino, aminocarbonyl,  
(C<sub>1-6</sub>)alkylaminocarbonyl, di(C<sub>1-6</sub>)alkylaminocarbonyl, acetidin-1-yl-carbonyl,  
pyrrolidin-1-yl-carbonyl or piperidin-1-yl-carbonyl.
- 15      3. The compound of claim 2, wherein the group A denotes pyridyl or  
fluorophenyl.
- 20      4. The compound of claim 1, wherein the group R<sup>1</sup> denotes amino, methylamino  
or dimethylamino.
- 25      5. The compound of claim 1, wherein the group R<sup>2</sup> denotes methyl.
- 30      6. The compound of claim 1, wherein the group R<sup>3</sup> denotes methyl.
- 35      7. The compound of claim 1 selected from among the compounds:  
3-methyl-9-methylamino-7-(pyridin-4-yl)-3H-imidazo[4,5-f]quinoline;  
7-(3-fluorophenyl)-3-methyl-9-methylamino-3H-imidazo[4,5-f]quinoline;  
9-dimethylamino-7-(3-fluorophenyl)-3-methyl-3H-imidazo[4,5-f]quinoline;  
9-dimethylamino-7-(3-fluorophenyl)-2-methyl-thiazolo[4,5-f]quinoline;  
9-dimethylamino-7-(3-fluorophenyl)-thiazolo[5,4-f]quinoline;  
7-(3-fluorophenyl)-2-methyl-9-methylamino thiazolo[4,5-f]quinoline;  
9-dimethylamino-3-methyl-7-(pyridin-3-yl)-3H-imidazo[4,5-f]quinoline;  
3-methyl-9-methylamino-7-(pyridin-3-yl)-3H-imidazo[4,5-f]quinoline;  
2-methyl-9-methylamino-7-(pyridin-3-yl)-thiazolo[4,5-f]quinoline; and  
9-dimethylamino-2-methyl-7-(pyridin-3-yl)-thiazolo[4,5-f]quinoline.

- 5 8. A process for preparing a compound of claim 1, wherein a 3-oxo-propionic acid ester, the carbonyl group of which is bound to the desired group A, is reacted according to the following reaction plan to give a compound according to the invention, wherein

10



15

- process step a is carried out in the presence of a primary amine;  
 process step b is carried out in the presence of the desired amino derivative of benzimidazole, benzoxazole or benzthiazole;  
 process step c is carried out in the presence of a suitable solvent;  
 process step d is carried out in the presence of a halogenating agent; and  
 process step e is carried out in the presence of the desired amine.

20

9. A pharmaceutical composition comprising as an active ingredient a compound of claim 1 and a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier.

5

10. A method for alleviating or treating pain in a warm blooded animal, comprising administering a therapeutically effective amount of a compound of claim 1.